



Economic Development Newsletter

DEER PARK, TEXAS

"Put Your Money Where Your Home Is - Shop Local"

August 2015/September 2015 • VOL. 34



Jiu-Jitsu After-School!

Area native Marshall Cevallos has opened Atos Brazilian Jiu Jitsu at 2826 Center St. (behind Deer Park Animal Hospital). Marshall discovered Jiu Jitsu after his young daughter started showing signs of autism. Jiu Jitsu, as well as other forms of martial arts, teaches learning-disabled kids structure, team building and life skills. Atos has flourished since opening in April, now offering programs for women, kids, beginners and executives. They offer a great after-school program, plus bully-prevention programs, self-defense, special-needs programs, and a world-class competition team. Look at www.AtosHoustonBjj.com for special offers, or call them at (713) 447-6646 and mention the \$25 limited offer to start.

Somethin' Sweet Does Cakes

It was five years ago that Leona Roberts and Sarah Riggs, sisters and Deer Park natives, decided to open Somethin' Sweet as a cupcake counter in Honey Bee Ham & Deli. One year later they relocated to 4201 Center Street (next door to Hellyer Transmission), opening a 2,500 square foot bakery and serving gourmet cupcakes. They later added cookies and daily lunches, plus now offer beautiful custom-made cakes. Somethin' Sweet items make great gift ideas and can be designed with edible images and logos, making them perfect for parties, meetings, weddings, etc. Call (281) 476-4441 or visit their Facebook page for cake design ideas.



Got Bees? Bee Smart

Deer Park is now home to Bee Smart Bee Removal, one of only a few pest control companies in the Houston region that specializes in honey bee nest removal and relocation. As a home-based business owned by Deer Park local David French, Bee Smart is environment and bee-friendly, with state-certified staff providing bee removal, beehive removal, swarm removal, carpenter bee control, and more. They even offer a two-year home protection warranty, so if the bees ever do come back, they will take care of the problem absolutely FREE. To get prices and learn more, visit www.beesmarthouston.com or call David at (877) 767-4432.

Economic Alliance Turns 30

Happy 30th Anniversary to the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region, a non-profit organization headed by Deer Park native Chad Burke and located at 203 Ivey Ave. (the former DPISD Administration building). Providing professional, region-wide economic development services for 16 cities and communities in our area, they spear-head this region's legislative representation, branding, global trade development, public policy, plus over 1,000 visitors come to their Deer Park office annually for various meetings. They currently have three vacant office suites available for lease. To inquire about available space, call (281) 476-9176, ext. 4 or visit www.allianceportregion.com for more information.



Landers Merges with LifeStyle

Ray Landers recently announced that Landers Financial Strategies has merged with another First Allied office in the area, Friendswood-based Lifestyle Financial Advisors. The purpose of the merger is to add value for the clients and facilitate growth of the Deer Park firm. Ray will remain at the 2318 Center Street office as primary advisor and branch manager. There are plans to have another advisor join the office, while hiring additional support personnel. Landers Financial will most likely undergo a name change, but Ray expects things to be mostly 'business as usual', as his customers realize some new, added benefits resulting from the merger. Visit www.landiersfinancial.com or call them at (281) 479-6488.

InsideDP.com – Six Years and Still Growing

Happy 6th birthday to InsideDP.com, which is Deer Park's news-website, providing news and sports coverage for our city and Deer Park ISD's service area. Citizens can get instant reliable news for and about the community we share, just by going on www.insidedp.com. When they first launched in 2009, staff was happy to be getting 5,000 hits per week. Six years later, InsideDP.com receives over 650,000 hits each month, surpassing all preconceived notions. If you are looking to a great way to advertise to the local community, check out their really affordable advertising rates. Editor/publisher and Deer Park native, Bobby Vasquez, has been with the site since its inception (and he also just happens to be "Bobby Dynamite" - the guy that drives the train at Minute Maid Park during the Astros games – how cool is that?) Call Bobby now for rates at 281-476-1127 or visit the site at www.insidedp.com.



Now Hiring

Safway Services recently opened their Houston hiring center at 1806 Center St. in Deer Park. The state-of-the-art facility is set up to recruit top-performing employees for both skilled and unskilled craft positions. The new jobs offer top pay, training and benefits for positions in high demand. Safway is seeking all levels of personnel in scaffolding, insulation, fireproofing and coatings and is looking to hire between 3,000 and 7,000 people in the Gulf Region in the coming months. Safway, a U.S. owned and operated company, serves the energy, marine, and industrial sectors through more than 95 offices across the United States and Canada. The center's phone number is 281-479-3506. More information is at careers.safway.com/Houston.



Featured Property

New office/retail space is available in Deer Park. Patricia Swaby is looking to lease 1,950 square feet at 106 E. San Augustine (current location of Altar'd Market). The space has been totally remodeled in recent years, and is in a great location at the intersection of Center St. and San Augustine - next door to the post office. The lease price is \$1.10/square foot. If you are interested, call Patricia at (281) 726-0291.

Panama Canal – the Final Stage

The \$5.2 billion expansion of the Panama Canal is in its final stage, as the new locks on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides of the canal are being flooded (a process that takes 90 days). The purpose for the expansion project is to accommodate ships carrying up to 14,000 containers of freight, triple the current size. It will create an East Coast port system that will rival that of the West Coast. The overall expansion program now stands at 90% complete and is scheduled to be finished in October 2016.



Deer Park Ranked #10 - Best Place to Start a Business in Texas

Texas has weathered the country's economic turbulence well with record-breaking annual job growth, and locals chalk it up to a business-friendly attitude and community mentality. In fact, NerdWallet analyzed 220 places, each with a population of at least 10,000, to find the best places in Texas to start a business. Each city's score was calculated based on the city's business climate and economic health using data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Deer Park scored #10 on the list because it has the highest median annual income among the top 10 cities — nearly \$52,000. It also has low unemployment and the third-highest total revenue of businesses (nearly \$17 billion) of the top 10 cities.

Bits & Pieces



- Deer Park Jewelry (3802 Center St.) has moved down and across the street, merging with DP Jewelry Factory at 4005 Center St. (next door to Simonize Car Wash). Both businesses are owned by the same family.
- Lil' Rascals should relocate sometime in September to their new 16,000 square foot location currently under construction at 4509 Center St. (across the street from Dabbs Elementary).
- Deer Park's new H-E-B is now hiring for all positions. You can apply at HEB.com under the Careers tab. The store should open in early November.
- Altar'd Market at 106 E. San Augustine (next door to the post office) has outgrown their store and will be relocating in late August. They have not yet determined their new location, but would like to stay in this area.
- Koby's Fine Jewelry at 3428 Center St. is having a "class ring" sale during August. Save money by buying locally.
- KZ Boutique at 3428 Center St. is having a massive, storewide clearance sale.
- Barbie Bowtique at 2816 Center St. has an open call for local vendors who would like to rent display space in the store. Call Chrissy at (281) 479-2617.
- Liberty Mortgage and Team Liberty Real Estate have moved to 3710 Center St.
- Curves, located at 122 W. San Augustine, closed its doors as of July 1.
- The state of Texas received 42 trillion gallons of rain in May of this year. That is enough rain to cover the entire state eight inches deep.
- Texas Fun Fact: 75% of the world's Snickers bars are made in Waco, Texas at the M&M/Mars plant.

Thank you for reading. To see past issues of this newsletter, visit www.deerparktx.gov/ed. To subscribe, submit ideas or comment, email Debbie Westbeld at dwestbeld@deerparktx.org. Subscribers receive this bi-monthly electronic newsletter via email.

Debbie Westbeld, Economic Development Administrator

City of Deer Park, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, TX 77536

Phone: (281) 478-2042

Email: dwestbeld@deerparktx.org Website: www.deerparktx.gov/ed